

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ASMARA 00417 011554Z

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

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O 011202Z JUN 74

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2709

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 417

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D COPY (FOR TEXT PARA #2)

FOR WENDELL COOTE - AF/E

E. O. 11652 : GDS

TAGS : PINS, CASC, ET

SUBJ : PROJECT HOPE

1. PLEASE REQUEST DR. WALSH COME YOUR OFFICE TO SHARE CONTENTS
FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM HOPE/ETHIOPIA. WALSH'S PHONES NUMBER
ARE : HOME 229-2056; OFFICE - 338-6110

QUOTE

FROM SCOTT/FREDRIKSON

SCOTT MET THIS MORNING WITH ELF LIAISON MAN SENT BY ELF TO
DISCUSS PRESENT POLITICAL SITUATION AND POSSIBLE EFFECT ON
HOPE PROGRAM WITH SCOTT. ITEMS DISCUSSED AS FOLLOW :

1. TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF ASMARA WILL BE UNWISE FOR ALL RPT ALL
FOREIGNERS FOR INDEFINITE PERIOD. THIS DUE NOT ONLY POSSIBILITY
ELF KIDNAPPINGS BUT ELF FEELING IEG ELEMENTS MAY CHOOSE
EXACERBATE PRESENT SITUATION BY PRECIPITATING INCIDENT DE-
SIGNED FURTHER EMBARRASS/DISCREDIT ELF IN EYES OF LOCAL RESIDENTS
AS WELL AS OUTSIDE SUPPORTERS/OBSERVERS. ELF LIAISON STATES THEY
HAVE NO POSITIVE INFORMATION THIS WILL HAPPEN BUT FEEL IT A
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POSSIBILITY WHICH IEG MIGHT BE CONSIDERING TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF

RECENT GHINDA INCIDENT. FACT THAT ROAD CLOSED FOR WHATEVER REASON, WILL NECESSITATE HOPE STAFF WHO CAN PSYCHOLOGICALLY WITHSTAND SUCH ISOLATION AND RESTRICTED FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT.

2. ELF LIAISON STATED WOULD BE NO DANGER TO FOREIGNERS IN ASMARA UNLESS, OF COURSE, FIGHTING BROKE OUT AND FOREIGNERS CAUGHT IN MIDDLE.

3. LIAISON STRONGLY URGED ARRIVAL JUNE 16 GROUP BE POSTPONED PENDING FURTHER CLARIFICATION/STABILIZATION OF SITUATION. EXPLAINED OUR PROBLEMS ON COMMITMENTS, FACT SOME PEOPLE HAVE LEFT JOBS ALREADY, ETC. AND THAT IF SUCH MOVE NECESSARY WOULD HAVE TO GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION NOT COMING AT ALL. RESPONSE WAS QUOTE STRONGLY ADVISE GROUP NOT ARRIVE JUNE 16 NOT BECAUSE OF RISK OF PHYSICAL SAFETY BUT RATHER UNCERTAINESS OF FUTURE UNQUOTE.

4. IF DECISION MADE TO PROCEED WITH PROGAM, ELF LIAISON STRONGLY RECOMMENDS PROGRAM MAINTAIN LOW PROFILE AND NOT GET TOO AMBITIOUS AND QUOTE EFFECTIVE UNQUOTE. REASON FOR THIS NOT DUE ELF CONCERNS OR ATTITUDES BUT RATHER THAT IEG WOULD PROBABLY MAKE LIFE DIFFICULT BY INSISTING THAT WE PUT INCREASING EMPHASIS OF PROGRAM IN PARTS OF ETHIOPIA OTHER THAN ERITREA. WHILE THIS A SUBJECTIVE APPRAISAL PROBABLY HAS ELEMENT OF TRUTH IN IT AS WE HAVE ALWAYS KNOWN.

5. DESPITE ABOVE, ELF LIAISON HAS STATED THEY WANT HAVE PROJECT HOPE IN ASMARA BUT WANTED US BE AWARE OF SITUATION AS THEY SEE IT.

6. FREDRIKSEN RECOMMENDS SCOTT RETURN D.C. BY MONDAY MORNING TO MORE FULLY EXPLAIN SITUATION DUE HIS KNOWLEDGE/UNDERSTANDING OF LOCAL SITUATION. FREDRIKSON FEELS SHE SHOULD REMAIN ON SITE TO CONTINUE PROGRAM PREPARATION, FEELS HER KNOWLEDGE OF POLITICAL SITUATION MINIMAL. OTHER TEAM MEMBERS NOT INFORMED OF TODAY'S INFORMATION TO AVOID ALARM. SCOTT PREPARED LEAVE ASMARA 0800 SUNDAY (LOCAL) TO ARRIVE WASHINGTON MONDAY IF DR. WALSH DESIRES. REQUEST ANSWER ON ABOVE ASAP. TELEPHONE COMMUNICATIONS STILL DOWN.

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UNQUOTE

2. REQUEST NIACT REPLY.
PERRY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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